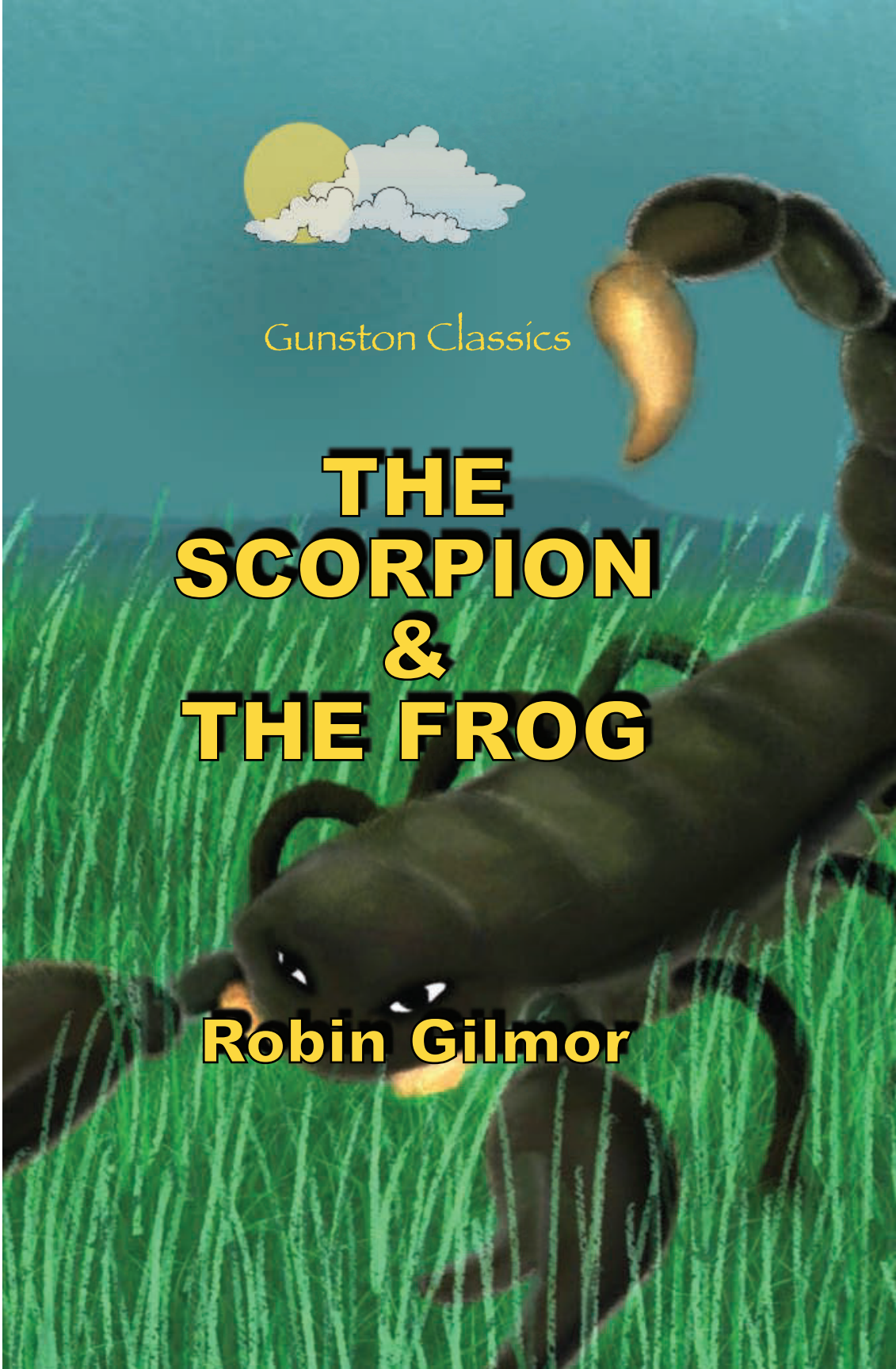
Gunston Classics
THE SCORPION & THE FROG
Robin Gilmor

Gunston & The Book Bunnies

The Gunston Trust

The Scorpion & The Frog

By Robin Gilmor

Eugenia Meli - Illustrator

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The Scorpion & The Frog

The hot burning sun beat down
Upon the parched ground,

With no hint of a breeze

to give any relief.
The ground was all cracked

and the tall weeds so dry,

Not a sound could be heard. . .

not one rustling leaf.

All the birds flew away

and the bees never buzzed,

Now the ant hills were empty,

and the streams were all dry. Not one cricket chirped,

as the earth turned to dust,
For they all needed water,

or else they would die.

The Scorpion & The Frog

But off in the distance

was a mountain so high,

And over this mountain

was a valley so green.

It's peaks reached high

beyond the white clouds

With more water and fruit trees

than had ever been seen.

At night a black Scorpion
moved slowly along,
But during the day
he hid in the tall grass.
There he waited for nighttime
to travel the distance.
He hoped he would get
to the valley at last.

The Scorpion & The Frog

He reach a cool stream

that flowed from the mountain,

and drank the cool waters

but still felt distraught.
"I must cross the wide waters to get
to the lush valley."

He sat on the bank

and he thought and he thought.

The Scorpion & The Frog

When he then met a frog
all green with brown spots,
Just a happy old sort
that croaked as he sat.
The Frog swam through the waters
to the far distant bank,
where he smiled at the Scorpion
and then he swam back.

The Scorpion & The Frog

So the Scorpion said,

"You can carry me over

From this side to that

just as quick as a wink."

But the Frog said to the Scorpion,

"But how can I trust you?

Once across you might sting me

and then I would sink."

The Scorpion & The Frog

Now why would I sting you

while crossing the stream

For with me on your back

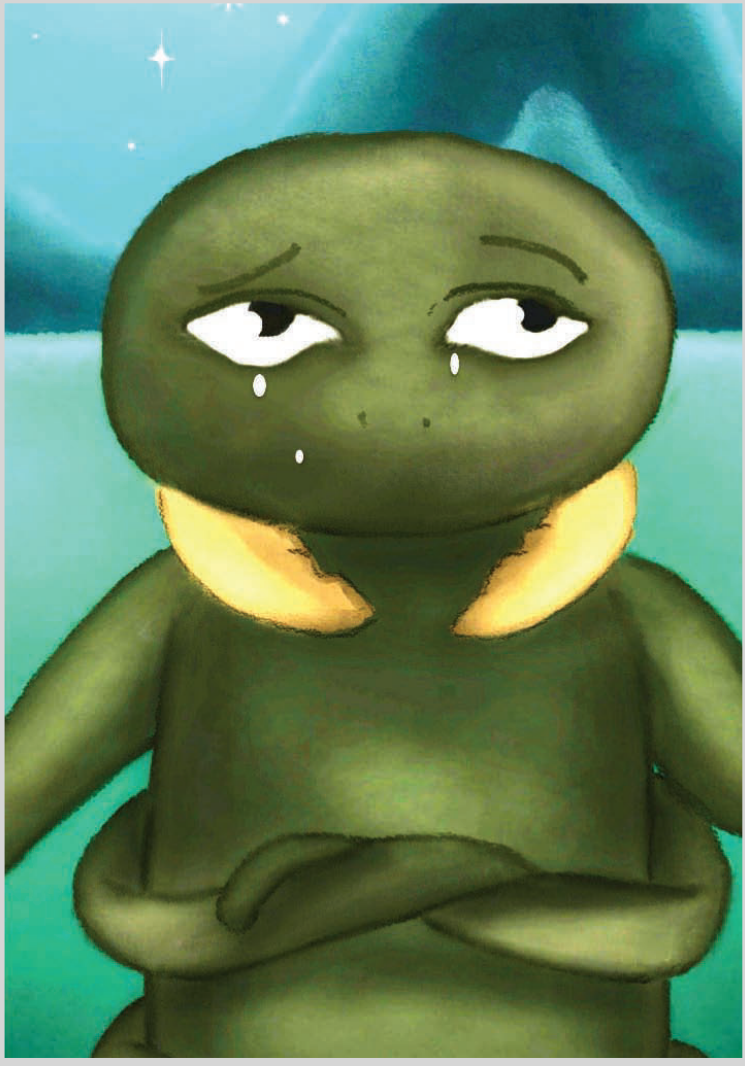
this would all be for naught?"

If I were to sting you,

you'd sink in the water

And I too would be gone,

what a terrible thought!"



The Frog sat and he pondered
upon this great thought,
but he wasn't so sure,
he just didn't know.
If stung it was true
that both surely would die
And sink into the cool
rushing waters below.

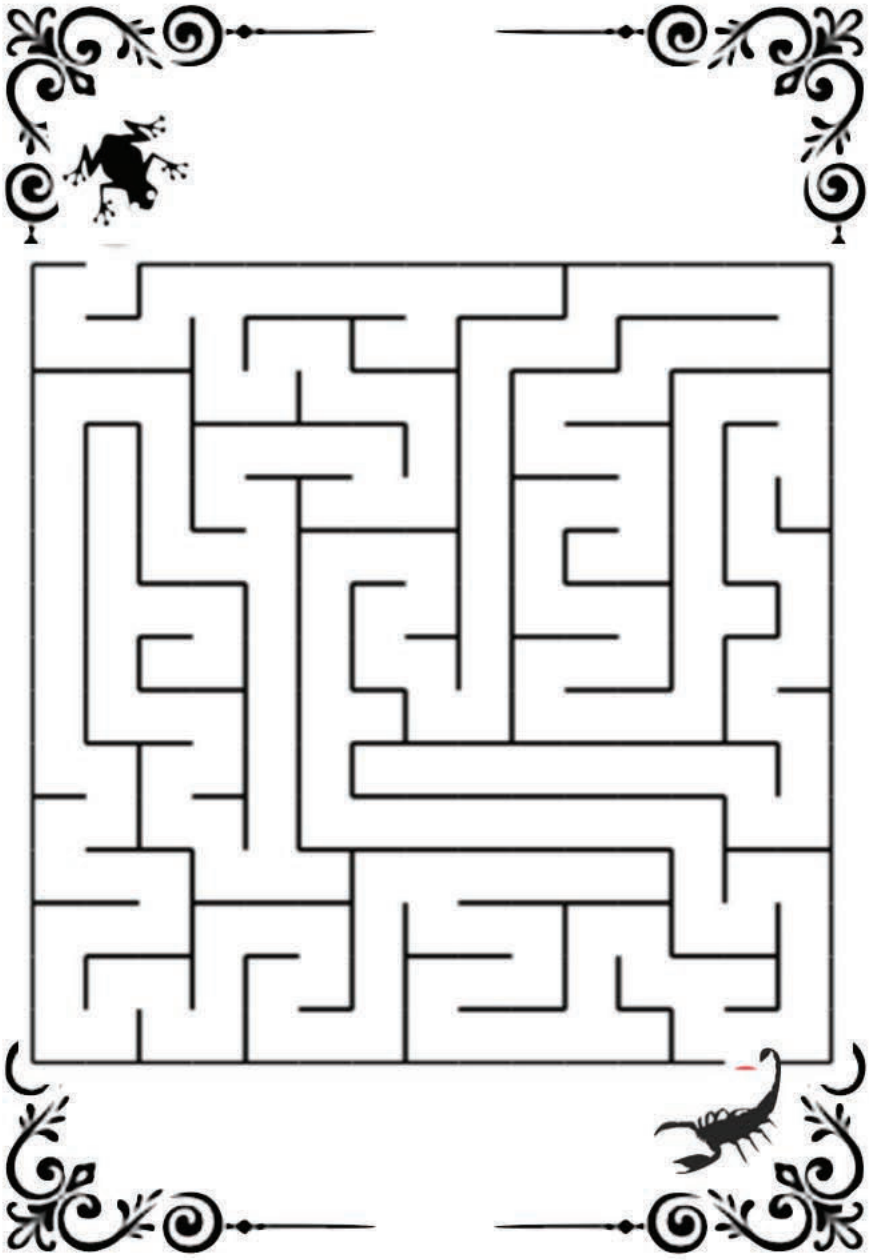
So the Scorpion hopped
on the head of the Frog,
And across the wide waters
the Frog swam with great ease.
But as they approached
the far bank of the stream
The Frog felt a sharp pain
from his head to his knees!

The Scorpion & The Frog

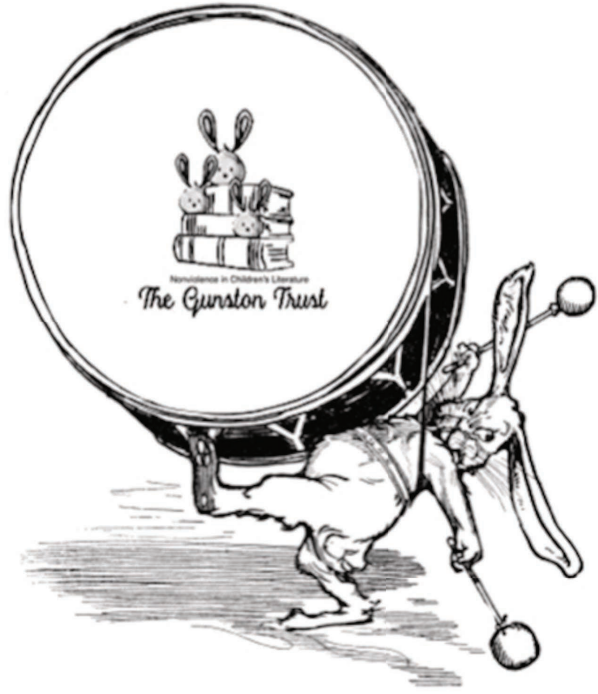
Mr. Frog went limp as he
slowly sank downward.
And down went the Scorpion
on Mr. Frog's head.
"We are both going to die,
so why did you sting me?"
"Because it's is my nature"
the Scorpion said!"

THE END

'Tis the nature of the beast!"



The Scorpion & The Frog



The Scorpion & The Frog

Nonviolence in Children's Literature
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